Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write to you today in support of the TIGER 8 grant application submitted by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for improvement to State Route 189 in the border community of Nogales, Arizona.

International trade is a key component of Arizona's economy, and to the economies of all communities and states that link to our Ports of Entry through the Interstate System. Arizona's most active commercial border crossing, the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales, processes thousands of commercial vehicles a day bound for locations throughout the country. Approximately 60% of the nation's winter produce comes through this port.

Significant Federal and local investment has been made to upgrade the efficiency and capacity of the Mariposa Port. However, the Port's connection to Interstate 19, the first link of the congressionally designated CANAMEX trade corridor, is tenuous and congested - particularly at peak produce season. This connection, SR 189 at I-19, has emerged as a "weak link" in the nation's trade system and is in urgent need of improvement.

Millions of American jobs are created or sustained by the efficient flow of goods through our international ports of entry, including those located in Arizona. Impediments to that efficient flow, such as exist today in Nogales, can often be addressed through carefully selected improvements that target key links in the transportation system. If successful, the TIGER 8 grant application submitted by ADOT would do just that. We support the Arizona Department of Transportation's efforts to receive the TIGER 8 grant and encourage you to strongly consider this grant application.

Sincerely,

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

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